Detention of Indian Pilots in USA

2668. SHRIK. RAMA MOHANA RAO:
SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

Will the Minister of EXTERN AL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 49 Indian pilots were detained in Florida and Texas by the Federal Bureau of Investigation after the terrorist attacks on the USA on 1 lth September, 2001;

(b) if so, the details of pilots detained; and

(c) what steps Government have taken to get them released?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI IASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) According to the information available with the Government, only four Indian pilot trainees were detained by the United States Authorities in Dallas (Texas) after the terrorist attacks of September 11,2001. Their names are:

1. Shri Divya Mishra
2. Shri Antonio Luke Victor
3. Shri Ashok Pathak
4. Shri Jaspreet Singh

The matter of expeditious disposal of their cases was followed up by Consulate General of India, Houston and the pilots were released within six days of their detention.

Streamlining policy with regard to neighbouring Countries

†2669. SHRI JANESHW AR MISHRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have been adopting the policy to ignore all the incidents taking place in the neighbouring countries like Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Pakistan and Sri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor,

(c) whether it is a fact that Government are not aware of or do not want to express there reaction on the excesses and oppression being unleashed upon the people of Indian orgin in the neighbouring countries;

† Original notice of the questions was received in Hindi.